The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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We are very much what others think of us.—Hazlitt.

WHOLE NO. 1030. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1931 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 20, NO. 43.

WORKERS FACE WINTER WITH LESS RESERVES

Washington, Jan. 3.—"The second winter of unemployment finds us with increased unemployment and decreased reserves," said Wm. Green, president A. F. of L., in discussing industrial conditions and prospects for the future.

"Approximately 5,000,000 wage earners are without employment," said Mr. Green, who expressed the hope that spring activity will mark the turning of the tide.

"Wage earners have been bearing a heavy burden as a result of the serious depression," he said. "About 50 per cent of trade union members have had to lower their standards of living because of lessened incomes, which have declined more than six billion dollars during the past year. As these wage earners represent more than 80 per cent of the purchasing public, their failing income has added to the depression, which was caused by output increasing faster than incomes.

"In sharp contrast to the decline in wages, industries in 1930 increased the sums paid for dividends and interest by more than $400,000,000. Part of this goes back into investments, whereas what is needed is to finance those who buy the products of industry."

President Green said that present conditions make it necessary to first give relief to unemployed, but permanent help, he said, must be based on regular customary employment. Prosperity, he said, is only possible when resting on high wages, shorter hours, organization of wage earners and the development of machinery to set up co-ordinated control of industries.

SCRUBWOMEN'S WAGE PAID BY GRADUATES

Boston, Jan. 3.—Wages of 19 scrubwomen, discharged last year by Harvard University rather than pay the State minimum wage, was contributed by a group of Harvard graduates. The fund, totaling $3,880, was divided among the women on the basis of their length of service at the university.

In a letter to the women, Corliss Lamont, son of the New York millionaire, said:

"When it was discovered last January that Harvard University for nine years had been paying cleaning women in Widener two cents an hour under the minimum wage standard, it was the hope of every fair-minded Harvard man that the university itself would make good the underpayment.

"The university, however, consistently refused to take such action, making no real effort to investigate the matter and to arrive at the full truth. On the contrary, university officials sought continually to evade the issue and to discourage those who insisted on revealing the complete facts.

"A group of Harvard men finally decided, therefore, to raise a fund of $3,880 covering back wages owing to the 19 women discharged last November and December.

"Final responsibility for the university's neglect and niggardliness in this matter rests with the Harvard Corporation. Though clearly proved to be in the wrong the corporation has steadily and stubbornly refused to acknowledge its mistake."

The women were replaced by men workers who are outside of the minimum wage standard. Harvard is the richest university in America, having an endowment, as reported last year, of $90,000,000.

NO ONE WANTS JOB OF RULING BRITAIN

New York, Jan. 3.—British labor will not be ousted from control of that government for a year because the other parties are not willing to take the job, according to Captain Valentine Williams, British journalist, who is visiting this country.

"The general opinion is that the Labor Party will remain in power for another year," said Capt. Williams. "No other party would be willing to take over the government under present financial conditions, with the risk of having to increase taxation. Furthermore, Lloyd George, as head of the Liberal Party, has refused to stand with the government in opposition to the Conservatives, if the administration pulls through the promised electoral reform which will enable the Liberals to get better representation for their supporters."

INCOME TAXES HIGH DURING DEPRESSION

Washington, Jan. 3.—The business depression has not materially affected labor incomes, as collections during the period December 1 to December 26 amounted to $490,848,651. This is but $22,000,000 less than the amount collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue in the same period last year. Four more days' tabulation will probably increase the receipts to $495,000,000. Frequent payments were little higher than before the depression.

UNIVERSITIES, ON FACTORY BASIS, MAY FORCE PROFESSORS TO UNITE

New Haven, Conn., Jan. 3.—Forces beyond their control are driving university professors to the status of employes and are forcing them to the point where they must form "a guild or a union," declared Prof. Yandall Henderson, president Yale chapter of the American Association of University Professors, in his annual report.

Prof. Henderson is shocked at the prospect, but he can see no alternate to cope with the industrialization of universities that are now being ruled from above. He warns the controlling factors of American universities that a guild or a union is inevitable unless there is a reform in methods of administration.

The universities, he said, have become industrialized and are now being operated on the factory system. The old New England type of college government is impossible, he said.

"Americans, especially of the dominant business man type, and even American professors facing their own problems, seem to be quite unable to conceive of any large organization or institution in any terms except those of a business corporation consisting of a board of directors, a president and department managers, and a body of employes. Much of Yale's traditional faculty organization, once efficient, is so no longer, and were better scrapped.

"But the result of the changes brought by time is that such problems as those of salaries tend now unfortunately more and more to call for action by some organization of the professorate outside the frame of the university."

Prof. Henderson considers a university "a self-governing fellowship of scholars," but the industrialization of these institutions of learning, with their rulership from above, is shattering this standard.

LABOR VIEWPOINTS GAINED ADHERENTS IN 1930

New viewpoints on automatic machinery and wider acceptance of labor's long demand for higher wages and shorter hours marked the year 1930.

The old theory that greater production cheapens prices and creates an increased demand, followed by more employment, is being discarded. Men are realizing that automatic machinery and scientific processes, yet in their infancy, affect every industry and calling and that these create unemployment faster than displaced workers can be absorbed.

Widely-heralded "stabilization" assures employment to some, but this can not check the continuous displacement of workers. Even the men who believe their jobs are "stabilized" may eventually become victims of the machine.

Mass production in agriculture illustrates how mechanization operates. The government is pleading with farmers to produce less. The same is true of oil and other raw materials. This slow-down process is referred to as "stabilization," but in its essence it is the same as labor's demand for shorter hours.

The past year has vindicated labor's long agitation for higher wages. Men outside the ranks of organized workers are being praised for their advanced position on this subject, but their argument was used by trade unionists 30 years ago.

Lay offs and staggered employment are also being advocated, but these place the burden of the depression on labor. Dividends to stockholders in 1930 increased $400,000,000.

Volumes have been written on the cause and cure for this depression, but these reasons and remedies are words. The value of shorter hours and higher wages are ignored.

Organized labor must emphasize the solution for present conditions, while insisting that the resources of government be used to appease hunger and to shelter the homeless.

It is mockery to talk of "rugged individualism" when human beings are hungry and when but a small percentage of these unfortunates are fed in soup houses.

The situation can not be changed by the charitably inclined who collect thousands of dollars that are in reality belated wages. If this money were paid in full, when earned, instead of handed out as a pittance to unemployed, there would be no depression.

Organized workers must continue their solution for depressions, but they must reject ancient tax-saving theories and demand that the hungry and shelterless be protected.

There is no excuse for hunger in a land such as ours. Prophecy of a better day is no substitute for distress that can and must be relieved.

Billions of dollars are spent without stint when the nation is threatened by an outside enemy, but insidious foes, such as hunger and want, are minimized, even though they rock a country's foundation.

It is unjust—and dangerous—to take the position of French autocrats—"after us the deluge."

In Memoriam, 1930

Walter E. Ames, trustee Union Printers' Home.

George B. Arnold, former Illinois director of labor; member Street Car Men's Union.

Joseph C. Ballorn, former president Painters.

J. H. Barry, international organizer Structural Iron Workers.

Wm. J. Brennan, former vice president Stationary Firemen; director of public safety, Newark, N. J.

Frank Buchanan, former president Structural Iron Workers; former member Congress from Illinois.

Edgar E. Clark, former chief of the order of Railway Conductors.

James P. Campbell, general vice president Plumbers.

S. O. Cook, first grand secretary-treasurer Order of Railroad Telegraphers.

John T. Fennell, vice president Electrical Workers.

W. L. Funderbunk, former president Stove Mounters.

Lake Grant, labor writer and editor; former member Carpenters' Union.

George Hargrove, international representative United Mine Workers.

Timothy Healy, former president Stationary Firemen.

Harry Hatton, national treasurer Glass Bottle Blowers.

Patrick F. Hayes, national vice president Post Office Clerks.

Clint Houtchens, life-time member Typographical Union; associate editor Labor, owned by standard railroad workers' unions.

Chris Kerker, general organizer Bakery Workers.

William Larkin, grand lodge representative Machinists.

Mrs. D. S. Litton, vice president Alabama Federation of Labor.

James M. Lynch, former president Typographical Union.

Robert Lyons, organizer Restaurant Employes.

John Mangan, former vice president Plumbers.

Orion C. Merrett, vice president Louisiana Federation of Labor.

M. E. Montgomery, former associate chief engineer Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

James J. Mulcahy, former vice president Typographical Union.

John N. Parsons, former president Letter Carriers.

Frank Pease, former editor The Railway Conductor.

Joseph Pope, former president Illinois district Miners.

Frank J. Pulver, former secretary Colorado Federation of Labor.

Wesley Russell, former president and former secretary Commercial Telegraphers.

John T. Smith, A. F. of L. organizer and secretary Kansas City Central Labor Union.

John Scott, former secretary-treasurer Railway Employes' Department, A. F. of L.

Clarke Silvernail, councilor Actors' Equity Association.

Joseph F. Valentine, former vice president A. F. of L. and former president Molders.

COURT ORDER IGNORED BY POLICE OFFICIALS

Los Angeles, Jan. 3.—An order issued by Judge Walter S. Gates of the Superior Court that police officials shall not interfere with the Los Angeles Citizen, means nothing to these champions of law and order.

The Citizen is owned by the local labor movement and has been printing accounts of a moving picture operators' strike. Police arrested newsboys when the papers were sold in the vicinity of the unfair theaters. The Citizen appealed to Judge Gates, who reminded the police of certain provisions in the Federal Constitution relative to a free press.

"Nowhere do we find in any of the States of this Union any authority which sustains the doctrine that a municipal corporation is invested with the power to declare the sale of newspapers a nuisance, said the court, who declared that "the power to suppress one concedes the power to suppress all."

The police officials ignored the order and continued to arrest newsboys. Contempt proceedings are now being considered by Judge Gates.

The attempt of police officials to control the press is interesting other local newspapers.

POST OFFICE BUDGET FILLED WITH FAVORS

Washington, Jan. 3.—The Senate refused to pass the post office appropriation bill when Senator Blaine showed that the measure reeks with graft.

This department operates at a deficit and Postmaster General Brown opposes shorter hours and higher wages for employes because of expense. He demands that the department be placed "on a business basis."

Senator Blaine exposed a leasing system by which the department pays rentals on buildings that range as high as 60 per cent a year on the investment.

"Now it is proposed to permit the postmaster general to enter into similar leases for garages without competition of any kind," said Senator Blaine.

"I have no doubt that fraud has been involved. I have no doubt that certain political contributions have entered into consideration of these leases. I believe the government is paying at least $10,000,000 a year more than a fair rental and that it stands to lose $150,000,000 within the next ten years," said Mr. Blaine.

Other Senators referred to exorbitant subsidies that the post office department is paying to airplane and steamship companies for carrying mail.

It is estimated that these grants total $36,000,000 a year, while the postmaster general pleads poverty when postal employes ask improved work conditions.

FARMERS NEED FOOD, SAYS LEGION CHIEF

Washington, Jan. 3.—Arkansas farmers are poverty stricken, said Oran J. Vaughan, commander of the American Legion of that state, in a letter to President Hoover.

The Legionnaire said it would be "an empty gesture to offer to loan our farmers money to purchase food for live stock, seed and fertilizer with no provision for necessities of life for themselves and families."

MORE LYNCHINGS IN 1930

New York, Jan. 3.—Despite denunciation of mob rule by the church, the bar and press, there were 25 lynchings in this country during 1930, as compared with 12 the previous year.

These figures were issued by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The association reiterated its demand that Congress take prompt action to stamp out lynching "if the United States is not to continue being disgraced and humiliated before the civilized world."

8 HOURS IN OIL FIELD

Oklahoma City, Jan. 3.—Oil field workers employed by the Indian Territory Illuminating Company have been placed on the eight-hour basis, with no change in the hourly rate.

ECONOMIST IGNORES BASIC FACTS

Prof. Wilford I. King, professor of economics, New York University, is against shorter hours for wage workers.

He acknowledges that "it has been impossible to sell, at the prices quoted, all the products of some of our farms and factories," but explains that we are in the midst of "a buyers' strike," and that people are pessimistic. As soon as this changes to optimism, he says, "depression will gradually give way to prosperity and unemployment will diminish."

Prof. King does not give the reason for "a buyers' strike" and for pessimism.

The economist applies the same flippant "reasoning" to the farm problem. He says there is too much wheat and suggests that if they (the farmers) "shift their energies to producing things people are willing to pay for, the better it will be for all concerned."

He fails to list commodities that the people "are willing to pay for," nor does he explain how, when and where farmers will make this change.

RAILROAD TROUBLES NOT BAD AS PAINTED

New York, Jan. 3.—Comparison of the relative position of railroads in 1929 as against 1920 indicates that at the beginning of this year plant, facilities, equipment and financial situations were the best in their history. The current business depression and the emphasis placed upon the menace of rate reductions, increasing taxation, highway and pipe line competition by the roads themselves have resulted in wide public over-estimation of present and potential adversities besetting railroads in general, according to the Standard Statistics Company, which makes this point:

"Ultimate improvement in fundamental business will unquestionably be followed by upturn in railroad traffic and earnings, based on the progressive improvement in operations displayed over the past decade. Compared with the first ten months of 1929, there was an increase this year in the number of locomotives and freight cars installed in service, the latter showing an increase over a corresponding period since 1926. Curtailment of equipment additions is in prospect in coming months as a result of the smaller number of freight cars and locomotives on order as of November 1."

EMPLOYES ARE GOUGED ON U. S. PUBLIC WORK

Greensboro, N. C., Jan. 3.—The Central Labor Union of this city protested to President Hoover against the wage practices of contractors at Fort Bragg.

The union calls attention to the President's declaration against wage cuts, made on December 23, following the refusal of Congress to insert a prevailing wage clause in the $116,000,000 appropriation. The protest follows:

"Contractors on government work at Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, N. C., are paying bricklayers, carpenters, and skilled building tradesmen approximately half prevailing wage scale of this section. We feel your statement as quoted by Associated Press, December 23, relative to existing policy of government justifies us in calling this to your attention with hope that an adjustment of this practice may be made which will conform to your desires as expressed in news story."

5 DAYS FOR PIPE MEN

Los Angeles, Jan. 3.—The five-day week has been established by Plumbers' Local No. 78. This places all workers in the organized pipe trades of Los Angeles on the five-day week.

WHY INHERITANCE TAX IS OPPOSED BY WEALTH

Cincinnati, Jan. 3.—The reason for opposition to inheritance taxes is shown in the report of the executor of a former newspaper owner in this city whose estate is valued at $6,328,844.

The executor paid an inheritance tax of $556,947.50 to the state of Ohio and $134,136.89 to the Federal government.

This total of $671,083 would pay an old age pension of $6 a week to 100 persons for approximately 22 years.

DROUGHT RELIEF PLAN NOT TO INCLUDE FOOD

Washington, Jan. 3.—Secretary of Agriculture Hyde ruled that no part of the $45,000,000 drought relief appropriation can be loaned to farmers to buy food, and predictions made in the Senate have been verified.

The House first passed the bill, which called for $30,000,000. The Senate doubled that amount and included a provision that the money could be loaned to buy food for human beings, as well as food for live stock, for seed and for fertilizer.

Secretary of Agriculture Hyde said the provision for food for the farmers was "perilously near the dole." It was stricken out and the appropriation reduced to $45,000,000 in the House. The House also provided that instead of the food provision the Secretary of Agriculture could loan funds "for such other purposes incident to crop production" as may be prescribed by the Secretary. Senators insisted that there was nothing. There was a disposition in the Senate to fight for retention of the food clause, but leaders of the reactionary-controlled House gave notice that the Senate must take the bill as the conferees agreed to or nothing.

NORRIS SCORES DEBUT AS ILL-TIMED LUXURY

Washington, Jan. 3.—The $50,000 party given in this city by a public utilities magnate for the social debut of his daughter was assailed by Senator Norris, who said this is an instance of "a man scattering his money around ruthlessly while millions are suffering."

"That is the trouble with our prosperity," said Senator Norris. "I can't help thinking that this is exactly the same situation as existed prior to the French Revolution. I don't anticipate such a thing in this enlightened age, but something very like it is pretty nearly here."

He referred to a bread line in the same block in which the party of 1,000 guests were held. "I am glad," he said, "that this man's daughter had such a nice time, but she could have had a nice time on one hundredth part of the money that was spent."

PENSIONS FOR AGED FAVORED BY CARAWAY

Washington, Jan. 3.—An old-age pension is included in Senator Caraway's program of economy, it was disclosed today. The proposal is entitled that such a system is a "gratuity."

"Each generation," he said, "leaves more wealth in the world than when it began. That is illustrated by the fact that when the Indians sold New York to white men for $24 they got their money's worth. A system by which old age could receive some support from society is not a gift, but simply provides that the aged could draw on the reserve which they themselves helped to accumulate."

GREEN OFFERS PEACE PLAN TO STOP DANVILLE STRIKE

Danville, Va., Jan. 3.—A mass meeting of 8,000 textile workers and sympathizers roared their approval when Wm. Green, president A. F. of L., declared that the governor of Virginia has the moral and legal right to withdraw soldiers from this city if the mill management refuses to arbitrate the textile strike.

President Green proposed that all men and women employed in the mills when the strike started return to work immediately, that all, without discrimination, have the right to join and remain members of the union if they wish. On their return all disputes should be referred to a board of arbitration, composed of representatives of the workers and the mills, and that the umpire shall be either Admiral Byrd or former Governor Byrd.

Green's speech was marked by a fervent plea for peace and to "let bygones be bygones."

"But if peace be rejected," he declared, "and we must choose between righteousness and the denial of the common rights of Americans, we will choose righteousness."

"If I were the Governor of Virginia, I would notify the mill corporation that if they refuse peace I will withdraw all state troops from Danville. The corporation refusing such an offer forfeits all rights to protection of courts, law and the police powers. Even now there are being proposed the enactment of statutes to that effect in some of the states. If this offer is refused, the citizens, the merchants and professional men of Danville should hold an indignation meeting and make known their outraged sense of justice at such a travesty upon fair dealing.

"It is as impossible to keep back the trade unions as to turn back the tides of the sea. The workers of America will either join the A. F. of L. or they will join other movements.

"There is something wrong, when there is brought upon an American community a condition where thousands are driven from employment to sacrifice and suffer, when business suffers and even the churches feel the blight just because this elemental right is refused.

"It is the duty of every man who loves peace and domestic tranquility to bring such a condition to an end and to establish fair dealing. There must be a rule of reason and I cannot but think that justice still rules the councils of men.

"You trade unionists of Danville have fought and sacrificed like crusaders. You have defended a sacred thing and with a religious motive. Even if your adversary has succeeded in defeating you, your spirit of protest would not be subdued."

RAIL WORKERS OPPOSE MERGER UNTIL RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED

Chicago, Jan. 3.—The proposed merger of 50 railroads east of the Mississippi into four major independent lines will be opposed by organized rail workers unless benefits to the public are assured and some provision is given to workers for the loss of their homes and their jobs, according to Donald Richberg, counsel for the railway labor organizations.

The merger systems would be the Pennsylvania, New York Central, Baltimore & Ohio and the Nickel Plate. The workers' attorney has approved of the pending Senate resolution, sponsored by Mr. Couzens, which would halt these mergers until the rights of the public and the workers are assured.

The merger must be approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission. In railroad circles, it is stated the consolidation plan has not been reduced to writing, although there is "agreement as to virtually all points."

President Hoover has approved the mergers, which he considers a "contribution to the recovery of business by enlarging opportunity for employment."

Senator Couzens said that "no consolidation so far has been in the public interest and if this is in the public interest it will be a novelty."

The Senate is challenged. President Hoover that consolidations eventually would open the way for lower rates. He said such statement was contrary to testimony of the railroad presidents before the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee.

Mr. Richburg's statement on the proposed mergers follows:

"The proposed consolidations of certain Eastern railroads into four main systems may eventually stabilize employment to some extent. But they are certain, also, to decrease employment. They may result in improved service to the public, but they furnish no insurance of a cheaper or improved service. The position of the organized railway employes has been clearly stated in their support of the Couzens' resolution. They believe that all further consolidations should be halted until Congress can pass additional legislation which is absolutely necessary to protect the public interest.

"Such consolidations should be authorized only when the Interstate Commerce Commission has been given power to insure some benefits to the public and some protection to the railroad employes against unnecessary losses of their homes and their jobs."

MERGER TREND SHOWS DECLINE THIS YEAR

New York, Jan. 3.—The decrease in the number of mergers of manufacturers of national importance has been most marked this year in comparison with 1929, according to the Standard Statistics Company, which lists the number this year to December 15, as 85, against 119 the year before.

An even greater decline in the number of corporations involved in the consolidations has been recorded. The 85 mergers of 1930 brought together 187 smaller units, while in 1929 there were 305 smaller companies involved in the 119 consolidations.

In both years the food group and the drug and chemical industry overlapped all other classifications in their trend toward fewer and larger units. In 1929 food companies increased from 115, or more than one-third the total, and this year totaled 60, or 38 per cent of the total credit, it was pointed out. Consolidations involved 42 concerns in 1929 and 8 companies in 1930.

MARRIED WOMEN WORK TO SUPPORT FAMILY

Washington, Jan. 3.—Married women are forced to work because their husbands' wages are low, declared Miss Mary Anderson, director United States Women's Bureau. The dismissal of these women as a relief measure for unemployment is unsound, said the chemical expert.

"Those who recommend the removal of married women from industry and offices as a remedy, do so upon the false assumption that their husbands earn sufficient wages for the support of their families," said Miss Anderson. "A study of census reports from four selected cities disclosed that two-thirds of the women working were compelled to supplement their husbands' incomes."

LABOR CO-OP. UNITS REDUCED BY ONE-HALF

Washington, Jan. 3.—The number of workers' productive associations has fallen off nearly one-half within recent years, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Factors in the decrease of these enterprises, which are run on a co-operative basis with the workers sharing the profits, have been the failure to study adequately the field entered, efforts to make articles by hand in industries wholly mechanized or rapidly becoming so, insufficient and inevitably dwindling business and strong competition.

That some of these co-operative groups have attained considerable success, however, must be put down to their credit, it was pointed out.

"The co-operative workshop is exposed to a temptation not present in other forms of co-operation," the bureau states. "Every additional member in consumers' co-operative societies increases the business and also savings and benefits. But in the workers' societies each new member increases the number sharing the profits, though not necessarily increasing the amount of business or profits. If additional workmen are present there is, then, a tendency to obtain them as employes and not as members."

FACTORY OUTPUT DROPS

Washington, Jan. 3.—Industrial production in November showed a decline of 4 per cent, according to the Federal Reserve Board's summary of general business and industrial conditions, made public the latter part of December.

SENATOR SUGGESTS 5-DAY WEEK; MACHINE CAUSES UNEMPLOYMENT

Little Rock, Ark., Jan. 3.—"The substitution of machinery for hand labor is revolutionizing working conditions and throwing millions out of employment," declared United States Senator Joe T. Robinson, in suggesting the five-day week.

"Unemployment seems to be increasing rather than diminishing," he said. "Many circumstances indicate that mere temporary measures would be insufficient, although, of course, they must first be considered. To restore the equilibrium between the labor supply and the demand for laborers, the industries of the United States may find it necessary to resort to the five-day week.

"The establishment of reserves for unemployment has been proposed. Such a reserve, however, can only be made available after the lapse of a considerable period, and like the dole would be a form of permanent rather than temporary character."

Senator Robinson said that the $116,000,000 appropriated by Congress before holiday adjournment "appears inadequate." The largest proportion of that appropriation is for road building.

This appropriation, declared Senator Shipstead, is not an "emergency unemployment relief bill," since it only advances money which would have ultimately been appropriated in any event and which will be deducted from future appropriations for the same purposes. The McNary resolution, authorizing an appropriation of $45,000,000 for drought relief purposes, he said, can not be classified as unemployment relief legislation, since it is concerned only with the relief of suffering due to drought.